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Navy civilian arrested by FBI, charged with espionage

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The FBI yesterday arrested a civilian Navy employee outside the Israeli Embassy and charged him with espionage for allegedly stealing classified government documents and selling them for "large amounts of money."

Jonathan Jay Pollard was arrested after a joint investigation by the FBI and the Naval Investigative Service found "suspicious activity on the part of Pollard," an FBI spokesman said.

The Navy analyst was arrested yesterday morning outside the Israeli Embassy and is suspected of spying for the Israeli intelligence service, federal sources told the Associated Press.

He was arraigned in U.S. District Court last night and ordered held without bond, pending a hearing Wednesday.

An Israeli Embassy spokesman confirmed that someone was detained in front of the embassy early yesterday, but said he had no further knowledge.

The arrest coincided with the release yesterday of a Pentagon report recommending changes in security procedures in the wake of the recent

Walker espionage case that involved the transfer of Navy secrets to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Pollard was charged in a federal complaint filed with U.S. Magistrate Patrick J. Attridge with holding classified documents and theft of government property.

The complaint said Mr. Pollard was an analyst with the Naval Investigative Service in Suitland, Md., and is suspected of transferring "highly classified documents relating to the national defense."

FBI agents on Tuesday inter-

cepted a suitcase with Mr. Pollard's name on it that had been given by his wife to an unidentified third party, according to court documents. The suitcase contained highly classified information, the papers stated.

Mr. Pollard's wife, reached by telephone, declined to comment or provide her full name.

Mr. Pollard admitted he had given these documents and other information to agents of a foreign government, according to an FBI spokesman.

U.S. Attorney Joseph diGenova declined to identify which foreign country Mr. Pollard allegedly dealt with.

He would not say whether further arrests were anticipated.

In requesting that Mr. Pollard be held without bond, Mr. diGenova said the suspect had been out of the country twice in the past year, and was believed to be in possession of a large amount of money received from the sale of the information.

When asked about the nature of the documents Mr. Pollard allegedly sold, Mr. diGenova said, "He has been charged with espionage. This was not the list of lunch-time attendees at the Press Club. The documents were highly classified."

The Pentagon has been under increasing pressure to combat espionage, ever since the Walker family — John Walker, his son Michael and John's brother Arthur — were nabbed by the FBI, putting an end to an elaborate spy ring that provided secrets to the Soviet Union for more than 15 years. A family friend allegedly was involved in the plot.

Yesterday's report by a Pentagon advisory commission revealed that "secret" and "confidential" security clearances for government and defense industry employees are granted solely on the basis of a check of federal criminal records and would not uncover any leads indicating suspicion of espionage unless the person under investigation supplied the information.

The 62-page report, "Keeping The Nation's Secrets," called for improv-

ing the quality and frequency of background investigations for clearances, using credit checks, employer interviews and the use of "behavioral science research."

The advisory panel, headed by former Army Gen. Richard G. Stilwell, also recommended the increased use of polygraph or lie detector tests, rewards for informants and harsh penalties for civilian and military personnel who disclose or sell secret data.

John and Michael Walker pleaded guilty in Baltimore last month and Arthur Walker was convicted in Au-

gust. Jerry A. Whitworth, a suspect in the spy ring, has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial in San Francisco, set for January.

"On the whole, [the Defense Department] must be willing to pay a higher price, in terms of both resources and operational convenience, to protect its classified information," the report states.

Gen. Stilwell told reporters at a Pentagon briefing yesterday that he held a meeting with Soviet KGB official Vitaly Yurchenko, considered by some government intelligence experts to be a Soviet double agent. Mr. Yurchenko returned to the Soviet Union earlier this month after charging the CIA with kidnapping and drugging him.

Gen. Stilwell described his meeting with Mr. Yurchenko as "a plus" and said the KGB official "corroborated" other information relating to the Soviet Union.

Pentagon counterintelligence director L. Britt Snider said Gen. Stilwell's meeting with Mr. Yurchenko did not affect the commission report since it took place after the report had been completed. He said Gen. Stilwell questioned Mr. Yurchenko on the KGB's analysis of weaknesses in U.S. security procedures.

Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims said that as a result of the commission report Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on Tuesday ordered a "one-time, top-to-bottom security

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inspection" throughout the Defense Department to find out if proper security procedures have been implemented and followed.

The report criticizes the current status of officers responsible for handling security matters.

"Security officers are often 'buried' far down in the organization and consequently have little opportunity to bring major problems or meaningful recommendations to top management attention," the report states. "Nor do they possess the authority to conduct effective oversight and deal with deficiencies."

Mr. Snider said in an interview that clearances below "top secret" are granted on the basis of an applicant's personal history statement.